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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-14 HEW-08

CU-05 DRC-01 /193 W
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4517
INFO USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 OTTAWA 3010

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON
SUBJECT: UN-SEMINAR ON NATIONAL MACHINERY TO ACCELERATE
INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT AND TO ELIMINATE
DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS OF SEX

PASS LABOR, HEW, USAID

FROM US REP WALLACE

1. INTERREGIONAL SEMINAR ON NATIONAL MACHINERY
TO ACCELERATE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT
AND ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION ON GROUNDS SEX
CONCLUDED SESSIONS EARLY AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 17
IN USUAL SPIRIT GOOD FELLOWSHIP AND SENSE OF
ACCOMPLISHMENT. IT IS ENTIRELY FEASIBLE THAT
SEMINAR WILL PROVIDE IMPETUS TO ESTABLISHMENT
NATIONAL MACHINERY AS PART OF INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S YEAR (IWY) ACTIVITIES.

2. SEVERAL COUNTRIES INTERPRETED NATIONAL
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MACHINERY AS THAT WHICH EXISTED VIA FAMILY AND

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CHILD WELFARE SERVICES AND OTHER SOCIAL FUNCTIONS
OF GOVERNMENTS ADMINISTERED WITHOUT REGARD TO SEX
AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS DIVERSITY OF
PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT BY OTHER PRIVATE AND PUBLIC
GROUPS. SIGNIFICANT INTEREST IN US ANTI-SEX
DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT MACHINERY.

3. AUSTRIA EMPHASIZED GROWING TREND NOT TO TREAT
WOMEN'S PROBLEMS SEPARATELY EVEN THOUGH WOMEN'S
AFFAIRS DIVISION IN MINISTRY SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND
SUB-COMMITTEE WOMEN WORKERS ESTABLISHED BY LABOR
COUNCIL PRESENTLY OPERATING.

4. NETHERLANDS STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS
QUOTE TO INSTALL A NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR EMANCIPATION POLICY TO PROMOTE EQUALITY BETWEEN
MEN AND WOMEN, AND THE FULL INTEGRATION OF WOMEN
IN ALL PARTS OF SOCIETY END QUOTE. JAMAICA
PARTICPANT STATED JAMAICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN
PROCESS SETTING UP COMMISSION ON STATUS WOMEN AS
ITS CONTRIBUTION TO IWY, FROM WHICH NATIONAL POLICY
WILL HOPEFULLY EMERGE AND/OR COMMITTEE WITHIN
GOVERNMENT TO DEAL SPECIFICALLY WITH WOMEN'S AFFAIRS.
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STATUS WOMEN ESTABLISHED 1969 IN
INDIA TO PRESENT REPORT TO GOVERNMENT SOON.

5. KENYA MALE PARTICIPANT STATED GOVERNMENT IS
LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY SETTING UP TECHNICAL
BUREAU AT NATIONAL LEVEL WITH ITS OWN DIRECTOR
AND SUPPORTING STAFF LOCATED IN MINISTRY COOPERATIVES
AND SOCIAL SERVICES. FINAL DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT
AFTER PARTICIPANT SUBMITS SEMINAR REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
TO GOVERNMENT. SUDAN REPORTED COMMISSION ON
STATUS WOMEN ESTABLISHED APRIL 1974 AND WILL WORK IN
COLLABORATION WOMEN'S AFFAIRS SECTION DEPARTMENT
SOCIAL WELFARE.

6. AFTERNOON SESSION SEPTEMBER 13 DEVOTED STATEMENTS
FROM PARTICIPANTS ON PLANS FOR IWY. MOST APPEARED
TO BE IN FORMATIVE STAGES. REPRESENTATIVE SECGEN
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STATED TWO MORE REGIONAL CONFERENCES PLANNED WITH
COOPERATION ECLA AND ECWA: WORLD CONFERENCE BOGOTA
JUNE 22-JULY 4; SYMPOSIUM AUSTRALIA AUGUST 1975 ON
EFFECT MASS MEDIA ON FORMATION ATTITUDES AFFECTING
FULL PARTICIPATION WOMEN; THAT NGO MEETING IS PLANNED
IN CONNECTION BOGOTA CONFERENCE; MONTHLY BULLETIN TO BE
ISSUED IN THREE LANGUAGES TO KEEP MEMBER STATES UP-
TO-DATE ON WHAT UN IS DOING; AN INTERNATIONAL STAMP

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TO BE ISSUED THROUGH REGULAR POSTAL SERVICES; THAT
MID-TERM REVIEW AND APPRAISAL SECOND DEVELOPMENT
DECADE TO HAVE MAJOR EMPHASIS ON PROGRESS OF WOMEN;
AND THAT A STATEMENT FROM SECGEN PERTAINING TO IWY
WILL BE ISSUED TOWARD END OF YEAR. WITH REFERNCE
MONTHLY BULLETIN, REPRESENTATIVE SECGEN REQUESTED
MATERIAL FROM MEMBER STATES FOR INCLUSION EACH ISSUE.

7. SAMPLES OF STATES' PLANS INCLUDE FEDERATION OF
LAWYERS CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN 1975 IN BULGARIA;
SERIES OF PROGRAMS ON WOMEN AND THE FAMILY TO BE
CARRIED OUT THOUGHOUT THE YEAR IN SPAIN; QUARTERLY
DETAILED PROGRAMS AND ARTICLES IN PRESS, ON RADIO/TV
IN THE NETHERLANDS; NATIONAL COMMISSION AND WOMEN
OFFICERS APPOINTED IN KENY AS WELL AS LOCAL COMMITTEES
AT VILLAGE LEVEL FOR CULTURAL FESTIVALS, CONFERENCES,
EMPHASIS ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT; NATIONAL AD HOC
COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN GHANA WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY
LEAD TO PERMANENT NATIONAL MACHINERY.

8. PHILLIPPINE PARTICIPANT DRAFTED PROPOSAL FOR QUOTE
FUND FOR THE PROMOTION OF EQUALITY OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSI-
BILITIES OF MEN AND WOMEN ESTABLISHED UNDER AUSPICES UN
IN CONNECTION IWY TO HELP FINANCE IMPORTANT PROJECTS
FOR WOMEN AIMED AT FULL INTEGATION, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE
IN ESTABLISHMENT NATIONAL COMMISSIONS OR SIMILAR MACHINERY
ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO WOMEN END QUOTE. PARTICIPANT
INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR PERMANENT FUND RATHER THAN
EMPHASIS IWY ONLY. US PARTICIPANT SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED
SEMINAR OF PERCY AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT
STIPULATING ATTENTION TO INTEGRATION WOMEN IN
DEVELOPMENT.

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OM FINAL DRAFT REPORT OF SEMINAR CONTAINING GENERAL
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, IN PART, MADE FOLLOWING
POINTS:

A. THAT IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD REAL EQUALITY
BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN HAS NOT YET REACHED THE
OPTIMUM LEVEL IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND THAT
WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT HAS NOT BEEN
ADEQUATLEY RECOGNIZED;

B. THAT WHEREAS MACHINERY DEALING WITH THE STATUS
OF WOMEN HAS EXISTED IN VARIOUS MEMBER STATES OF THE
UN FOR SOME TIME, THE SEMINAR RECOGNIZES THAT THE
TASKS OF INTEGRATING WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT AND
ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION REQUIRES FAIRLY COMPRE-

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HENSIVE MULTISECTORAL MACHINERY;

C. THAT NO SINGLE MODEL MACHINERY IS POSSIBLE
WHICH WOULD APPLY TO ALL MEMBER STATES... SINCE
SUCH MACHINERY IS BASED ON THE SPECIFIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC,
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT OF EACH SOCIETY;

D. THAT WHERE NATIONAL MACHINERY FOR THE INTEGRATION
OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT EXIST, EVERY EFFORT
SHOULD BE MADE TO ESTABLISH MACHINERY SUCH AS
NATIONAL COMMISSIONS, WOMEN'S BUREAUS AND/OR OTHER
BODIES ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY;

E. THE MACHINERY SHOULD BE MANDATED BY THE
GOVERNMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND PUBLICLY
ACKNOWLEDGED;

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PASS LABOR, HEW, USAID

FROM US REP WALLACE
F. THE ALLOCATION OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO THE MACHINERY IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE EFFICIENT CARRYING OUT OF ITS FUNCTIONS, AND THAT MACHINERY SHOULD BE INSTITUTIONALIZED WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO SURVIVE CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT;

G. THE COMPOSITION OF A NATIONAL COMMISSION OR SIMILAR COMPREHENSIVE MACHINERY SHOULD INCLUDE BOTH WOMEN AND MEN AND REPRESENT ALL GROUPS OF SOCIETY AND INCLUDE PERSONS AT THE DECISION-MAKING LEVEL AND THOS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING SUCH DECISIONS;
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H. THAT MEMBERS SHOULD SEEK THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC IN BOTH RURAL AND URBAN AREAS ON THE QUESTION OF METHODS OF INTEGRATING WOMEN INTO DEVELOPMENT AND OF REMOVING EXISTING OBSTACLES TO PROGRESS; AND

I. THAT A WIDESPREAD COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK WAS THOUGHT TO BE ESSENTIAL FOR A TWO-WAY FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL MACHINERY AND INTERESTED GROUPS AND VICE VERSA. THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTINAING A TWO-WAY FLOW OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WAS ALSO EMPHASIZED.

1. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS PERTAINED MORE FULLY TO THREE BROAD SUBJECT: (1) A GENERAL REVIEW OF VARIOUS TYPES OF NATIONAL MACHINERY ALREADY IN EXISTENCE: (W) DESIRABLE SUBSTANTIVE FUNCTIONS THAT NATIONAL MACHINERY MAY PERFORM; AND (3) VARIOUS CONSIDERATIONS WHICH APPLY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF NATIONAL MACHINERY.

11. THE SEMINAR WAS ALMOST DEVOID OF POLITICIZING. PARTICIPANT FOR PERU MENTIONED THAT HE QUOTE HOPED WE DO NT HONOR IWY UNLESS WE CARRY OUT AT THE SAME TIME THE DENUNCIATION OF THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE CONDITIONS SHOULD BE STUDIED AND ANALYZED BY THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS END QUOTE. HE CONCLUDED WITH FACT THAT IN A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY WOMEN WERE BEING PERSECUTED FOR ECONOMIC, RACIAL AND POLITICAL REASONS. CANADA AND THE USSR, DURING DISCUSSIONS OF FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL

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MACHINERY, SUGGESTED QUOTE SPECIAL MEASURES TO PROTECT
THE WELFARE OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, END QUOTE, WHICH WAS
LATER AMENDED TO READ QUOTE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF
MATERNITY, END QUOTE, WHICH WAS INTERPRETED BY UN
SECRETARIAT TO MEAN ATTENTION TO MATERNITY LEAVE. US
REGISTERED RESERVATION WHICH WAS LATER SUPPORTED BY
SWDEN AND THE SUDAN. PROVISIONS OF THE WORKING PAPER
WERE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS, AND THERE WAS A MINIMUM OF
ORAL SUPPORT BY PARTICIPANTS FOR CANADA/USSR POSITION.
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PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO SUBMIT AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT
REPORT IN WRITING BY 10:00 AM SEPTEMBER 18.

12. TWENTY-NINE MEMBER STATES OF THE UN WERE
REPRESENTED, WITH OBSERVERS FROM AUSTRALIA AND ISRAEL,
AND APPROXIMATELY 16 NGO OBSERVERS. THE CANADIAN
LABOUR CONGRESS HAS A FIRST WOMAN EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT WHO ENTERTAINED THE PARTIPARTICIPANTS AT LUNCH.
THE CANADIANS HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT HOSTS AND EMBASSY
PERSONNEL MOST COOPERATIVE.

13. THE IWY WORKD CONFERENCE WILL QUOTE EXAMINE TO
WHAT EXTENT THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UN SYSTEM HAVE
IMPLEMENTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ELIMINATION
OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN MADE BY THE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT. END
QYOTE, IN ADDITION, THE ECOSOC RESOLUTION REQUESTS
THE CONFERENCE TO QUOTE LAUNCH AN INTERNATIONAL ACTION
PROGRAM INCLUDING SHORT AND LONG-TERM MEASURES AIMED
AT ACHIEVING THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN AS FULL AND EQUAL
PARTNERS WITH MEN IN THE TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT AND
AT ELIMINATING DISCRIMATION OF GROUNDS OF SEX, AND
AT ACHIEVING THE WIDEST INVOLVMENT OF WOMEN IN
STRENGTHEING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND ELIMINATING
RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. END QUOTE.
PORTER

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